



FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# BROOKLYN PARK

COMMISSIONERS.

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JANUARY, 1874.

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BROOKLYN :  
PRINTED FOR THE COMMISSIONERS.  
1874.



# COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS.

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JAMES S. T. STRANAHAN,  
JOHN H. PRENTICE,  
EDWARDS W. FISKE,  
WILLIAM MARSHALL,  
ABIEL A. LOW,

SEYMOUR L. HUSTED,  
ABRAHAM B. BAYLIS,  
STEPHEN HAYNES,  
ISAAC VAN ANDEN,  
SAMUEL S. POWELL, *Ex-off.*

PRESIDENT,  
JAMES S. T. STRANAHAN.

SECRETARY,  
JOHN H. PRENTICE.

COMPTROLLER AND COUNSEL,  
JOHN N. TAYLOR.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND SUPERINTENDENTS,  
OLMSTED, VAUX & CO.

CHIEF ENGINEER,  
JOHN Y. CULYER.

CLERK,  
FRANCIS G. QUEVEDO.



## STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD.

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SEYMOUR L. HUSTED,

STEPHEN HAYNES,  
EDWARDS W. FISKE.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE,

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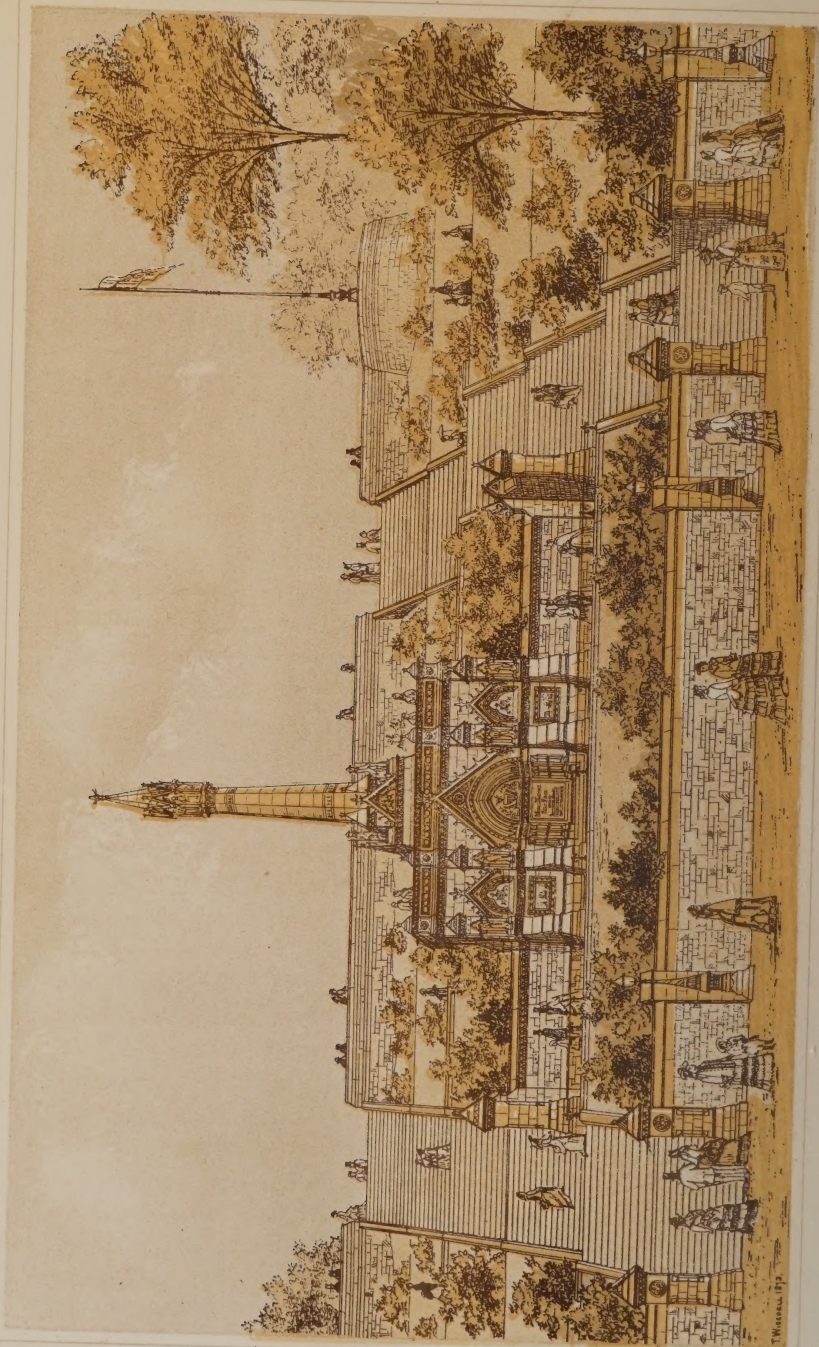
ABIEL A. LOW,  
WILLIAM MARSHALL.

### AUDITING COMMITTEE,

ISAAC VAN ANDEN,

JOHN H. PRENTICE.





DESIGN FOR - THE MARTYRS MEMORIAL - FORT GREENE  
OLMSTED VAUX & CO. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BROOKLYN PARK COMMISSIONERS,  
FOR THE YEAR 1873.

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TO THE HONORABLE THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF BROOKLYN :

The Brooklyn Park Commissioners, in compliance with the law which prescribes and regulates their functions, beg leave to submit to the Honorable the Mayor and Common Council of the city the following report of their operations for the year 1873, together with a statement of their receipts and expenditures for the same period :

Full details of the work are given in the accompanying reports of the Landscape Architects and Chief Engineer.

In view of the fact that the further appropriation of money to be expended for construction was limited by the Legislature to the year just closed, the Commission has endeavored, as far as possible, to anticipate the results of the necessary suspension of the work of improvement. It has been their duty to study and foresee the utilities which would in part naturally grow out of and be developed by the establishment of a Park in our city, and the record for the year, elsewhere contained in this report, indicates not only a very large number of visitors, but shows a considerable increase over that of the preceding year. It is, therefore, evident that our citizens already count upon the Park as an available and desirable resource, wherewith to secure health and pleasure, and appreciate the value of the possibilities afforded within so desirable

and accessible an area, for exercise, rest, and recreation. Another and important evidence of the growth in the use of the Park is in the gradual increase in the means of public conveyance, by which the Park may be readily reached from all parts of the city.

Any pleasure or recreation involving the expenditure of money, naturally entails more or less difficulty in its attainment to our poorer citizens. For this reason the Park may be said to be fortunately located, as it can be reached within the limit of a single car-fare by those living at a distance, and by those who may be sickly or infirm, or charged with the care of young children; while to a large portion of our citizens, on the other hand, the Park is within the limits of a moderate pedestrian venture.

With such considerations before them, the Commission have dictated improvements which were likely to give to the people as much of the Park area as was possible for their use; and the system of drives and walks being deemed to specially contribute to this end, have been completed so far as contemplated in the present design, with the exception of a few points incident to the finishing of entrances and bridge approaches, the necessary delay in the completion of which, presents no appreciable obstacle to free and ready access to all points of the Park.

During the past season a force of about 800 men have been employed, chiefly in regulating the unfinished surfaces comprised within the somewhat extended area lying along Ninth avenue and Fifteenth street, upon which but little work had been previously done. A part of this force was also employed in shaping the south and west slopes of Lookout Hill, the condition of the work in both of these areas being such as to require some preparation to fit them for more general use, and to protect their surfaces from action of the elements, in view of the contemplated cessation of work; while their complete embellishment could very properly be deferred to another season.

The other operations of the Park force have been of a desultory character, the more prominent and important of



which, in relation to the public interest, being those in connection with the Concert Grove and Plaza improvements, and consisting largely of mechanical work under special contract.

In the Concert Grove it is designed to afford an attractive meeting-ground for all classes of visitors, and to combine in an accessible way the music, which is to be permanently located on the small island in the Lake facing the improvement, with the boating accommodations, the main landing forming a part of the water-front of the Lower Terrace.

It is expected that this area will be a gathering point for visitors in fair weather, not only on occasions of special interest, but also under the ordinary circumstances of a visit to the Park during that portion of the year when the temperature invites the people to the pleasures of the open air.

This work, with the Fountain and Plaza Area, will probably be completed during the ensuing season.

An ornamental railing has been placed around the Basin, and arrangements partly completed by which the Fountain is to be operated and controlled.

The size of the Basin and the capabilities of the design for the Fountain, when completed, will make the display exceptional.

Lamp-posts and lamps have been placed around the inner line of the plaza, with the view of lighting for the public use the important thoroughfares passing through this Area.

### THE PUBLIC USE OF THE PARK.

The Park Commissioners have not been exempt from embarrassment and difficulties in their administration; nor, perhaps, would it be entirely practicable to adjust the regulations and rules for their management so evenly as to meet the wants and expectations of all classes. They feel gratified, however, to be able to record the fact that the greater number of visitors have readily recognized the propriety of the very reasonable regulations established for their observance, and have yielded to them a cheerful acquiescence, while an exceptional few only have opposed restraints which are obviously



necessary to insure general gratification and convenience. Petty thefts of flowers and shrubbery, and wanton damage of property, are less frequent than in former years; fast driving, also, which at first was of common occurrence, is now on the decrease, and, as a natural consequence, the safety and pleasure of those walking and driving in the Park is much enhanced.

In establishing regulations for the Park, the desire has been to afford to each visitor every reasonable facility for enjoying the advantages which all good citizens are entitled to, and it is gratifying to know that a somewhat liberal construction as to these privileges, and our experience of several years, has demonstrated that this liberality has not been inconsistent with the public good.

Special provision has been made for the public convenience and enjoyment in the way of structures for refreshment and general accommodation. These buildings are either under the direct charge of Park employees, or are let to experienced tenants, under suitable restrictions and regulations to ensure good management.

The boating and carriage services have been established during the summer, and their facilities will be enlarged, to meet an increasing demand which it is evident, must be anticipated, as experience shows that they are likely to become very popular features of the Park resources, affording as they do, at a small cost and in a convenient way, such additional opportunities for varying the pleasures of a visit, as are readily appreciated by the public.

During the year a number of open-air concerts were provided at the public expense, under the direction of Mr. L. Conterno, of Brooklyn, and the music was unquestionably of exceptional merit.

There can be no more popular entertainment, when the number who derive pleasure from them is taken into account, than these concerts, the cost of which is so trifling, and the Commission would very cheerfully increase both the size of the band employed and the number of concerts usually given if their desire to do so could be seconded by a sufficient appropriation to meet the expenses.

The very desirable accession to the Park, of the West Woods, derives additional interest from the fact that they are almost constantly, during the fine weather of the season, made the resort for social and family picnic gatherings, and their accessibility, and the absence of the usual danger and annoyance of transporting and caring for children under the ordinary prevailing circumstances of a visit to distant points, has made this part of the Park exceedingly popular during the past year.

The Commission deem this to be a very legitimate use for so appropriate an area, and has afforded all needed facilities to enhance the comfort and enjoyment of the children and others, by providing swings, tables, water, and necessary police surveillance to guard against intrusion.

The very excellent accommodations to be had at the Parade Ground have made that area the most desirable ground for field sports of all kinds, at present open to the youth of either Brooklyn or New York, and the fact of its availability has done much to encourage physical culture among the young.

During the past season nearly 700 permits were issued for the use of portions of the ground for base-ball, cricket, La Crosse, foot-ball, and other prevailing sports.

During the winter skating forms one of the most exhilarating and popular sources of enjoyment.

Suitable accommodations are each year provided on the shores of the Lake for public use, with such other attractions and conveniences as the Lake affords, for curling and ice-boat sailing, for the latter of which the Park lakes, covering an area of fifty acres, are exceptionally well adapted.

### PAYNE MONUMENT.

In the month of September of this year a bronze bust and granite base, together forming a suitable monument commemorative of John Howard Payne, the author of "Home, Sweet Home," was presented to the city by the Faust Club of Brooklyn, an organization made up of professional gentlemen, who have sought in this way to inaugurate a movement which

shall have for its object a systematic recognition of the great events and men of our country.

The monument was unveiled with suitable ceremonies, in the Park, on Saturday, September 27th, 1873.

### SMALL PARKS.

The work of improving Tompkins and City Park and Fort Greene, has progressed to the extent of the money appropriated therefor.

At Tompkins Park, trees and shrubs have been planted and the outlying walks graded, and temporary gates put in at the entrances to guard against damage from cattle.

The park was opened to the public this year and they have evinced a commendable interest in the improvement, and promise a reasonable use of the facilities provided for them.

At City Park the surfaces have been renewed, new and convenient lines of walk established and covered with concrete, the grass has been restored, old and unsightly trees have been taken out and replaced with younger and more desirable varieties, and generally the appearance much improved.

The Commission feel, however, compelled to state with regret that but little interest is manifested by the people of the neighborhood in the improvements made in this public pleasure ground, or in the regulations established for its care and preservation.

### WASHINGTON PARK.

The limited appropriation of money for this Park has restricted our operations, and must necessarily delay their completion.

The stone-work for the enclosing wall and entrances on the Myrtle avenue boundary is finished, and the further work of completing this wall, etc., on the Dekalb avenue side, is necessarily postponed to another year.

The structure known as the MARTYR'S MEMORIAL, facing the Gant at the junction of Myrtle avenue and Canton street, was commenced during the preceding year.

The brick vault has been built, and the base work of the intended ornamental stone superstructure has been added.



The bones of the PRISON SHIP MARTYRS were, on the 17th day of June, quietly removed from their resting place in Hudson avenue to Fort Greene, and deposited in the new vault, under the direction of the Commission, proper record having been made of the contents of the several receptacles in which the remains are enclosed.

The Commission are of the opinion that the interest of the city, and adjacent property particularly, would be best served by an appropriation of money sufficient to secure a prompt and vigorous completion of the work that remains to be done on Washington Park, and it is believed that the effect on surrounding property in a pecuniary sense must more than offset the outlay involved, besides increasing the benefits to be derived from its completion in the more extended use afforded thereby.

No other work on the small parks in the City has been done beyond the usual maintenance for the year, as provided by law.

#### WORK OUTSIDE THE PARK.

Of the several improvements placed in charge of the Commission by the Legislature, considerable progress has been made in the construction of the Eastern Parkway (Sackett street) from the Plaza to the City line.

The work is so far advanced that it is expected that the road may be ready for public use early in the ensuing season.

The grading and paving of Douglass and Degraw streets, from New York avenue to the City line, has been completed, and the streets opened for use and transferred to the care of the City, as provided by law.

#### EAST SIDE LANDS.

During the year the extension of the Parkway through this area from Washington avenue to the Plaza, has been completed by the Park force, its continuation and completion to the City line being under contract to Mr. Thomas McCann, of this city, and progressing satisfactorily.

The partial grading of the East Side Lands has been carried on at reasonable cost, advantage having been taken of

the needs of contractors under obligations to the city, the surplus earth on this area being specially desirable to those whose contracts involve the filling of low ground in this neighborhood.

Contracts for grading and paving Underhill avenue, from Warren street to the Parkway, and Park place and Butler street, from Washington avenue to Vanderbilt avenue, have been let at moderate prices.

The work of grading Park place and Butler street is nearly completed.

Work on Underhill avenue proceeds slowly in conjunction with the lowering of the force-main between the Warren street pumping-station and the reservoir for the supply of the high service of the city. The lowering of this main has been done by the Park force co-operating with the Water Board of this city, and was made necessary in adjusting the grades to those of the surrounding streets in accordance with the Commissioners' map of the city.

The Commissioners regret that no provisions exist by which advantage may be taken at this time to improve these East Side lands at comparatively small cost, and at the same time afford relief to a part at least of a large number of our laboring classes now idle and likely to remain so during the winter.

### OCEAN PARKWAY.

The construction of the Ocean Parkway from the southerly entrance of the Park to the Kings' Highway, in the town of Gravesend, was commenced early in the season and is nearly completed.

The Commission hope to dedicate it to the public use early in the coming year.

In inaugurating this exceptional type of design in road construction, the Commission had in view the development of an extended area of contiguous property to which benefit would accrue from this improvement. They also had in mind the fact that the taste for driving, which owed much of its rapid increase among our citizens to the establishment of the Park, would encourage the accumulation in our city of good stock

and the best class of vehicles, and out of this would grow a desire to move along at a higher rate of speed, and to extend their driving beyond the quieter limits of the Park, where, while it is doubtless annoying to those accustomed to rapid driving and riding to be required to conform to prescribed rates of speed, it was nevertheless necessary to ensure the attractiveness of the drives, and so in a large measure the Park, to the larger numbers, by enforcing observance of the established restrictions in this regard. The roads of the Park were planned for leisure driving, for the accommodation of which neither directness nor levelness were essential or desirable, diversities to a limited extent, both of grade and outline, being on the other hand especially sought for. The Commission have endeavored to anticipate this desire on the part of our driving public, and hope to present for their use this year a drive which, in their judgment, will realize all the requirements of a most attractive road, under the most favorable conditions of grade, breadth, and adaptation of construction for the purpose in view. They also look upon it as a most desirable adjunct to the Park, secured at a comparatively trifling cost to our citizens, involving, as it does, only the maintenance of the road from year to year, the whole of construction having been done at the expense of the owners of contiguous property through which the road passes.

The Commission regret that their desire to terminate the road at the ocean during the past year did not meet with more liberal encouragement; but they foster the hope that as the opportunities to add so great a charm is self-evident, and as the attractiveness of the Parkway must be greatly enhanced by such extension, the work will not be long delayed.

Much embarrassment attends our efforts to maintain the Parks within the limits of the fund provided therefore, in a manner which experience and good judgment suggest as proper and consistent with the best interests of the work.

As the work approaches completion the current expenses of the ordinary care of the Park have been necessarily augmented by the addition of finished areas, roads, etc., added to which the varying and increasing public use of the Park has entailed



responsibilities upon the Commission which have been attended with much expense. In a work of this character its prominent features are those with which the public comes into daily and intimate contact, and proper maintenance means at the very least the constant supervision and care of a force sufficient to keep up all the details of work to a standard equal to that of their first preparation. This is specially applicable to the roads, walks, and turf, all of which are incessantly deteriorating by use, and as incessantly require large outlays of money for their reparation. A heavy current expense is also involved in the maintenance of a force of keepers sufficient to secure the necessary surveillance for so large an area as that under the charge of the Commission, although the rates of pay and the incidental details of expense of this force are much below those of similarly organized bodies elsewhere.

The force of keepers is moderate in number, and is composed of men who have, many of them, served the city in this capacity for a series of years. The Commission would gladly deal with their employees in this department more liberally, but in view of the disproportion which the cost of the present force bears to the maintenance fund, and to the difficulties otherwise involved, they are constrained to defer all change in this respect to a more favorable moment, if such should offer.

The Commission share the reasonable concern shown by our citizens in regard to the economical management of all our public institutions, but believe that the recognized importance of the public parks to the people justifies liberal expenditure upon them, with a view to increasing their beauty and usefulness, and certainly warrants an outlay sufficient to preserve them from the loss, deterioration, and damage that must necessarily be incident to neglect or niggard economy.

It will be remembered that the proposed south-easterly boundary of the Park extended only to the improved portion of the town of Flatbush, west of Flatbush avenue, from the city line in a southerly direction.

This boundary was established in consequence of the high value placed upon the intervening property, which contained improvements of an extensive nature.

An original proposition of the Commission, at an early stage of the history of the work, contemplated the construction of a 30-foot sidewalk about the Park, which was to be shaded by a double row of trees, so that an ample and umbrageous well-lighted promenade would be afforded to the public, in the immediate vicinity of the Park, convenient and attractive to all, and available even after the Park itself should be closed at night.

It was believed that this plan would add breadth and character to the general design, and at the same time develop many advantages of street accommodations in the future, the attainment of which at the time would either prove practically impossible or be attended with very heavy expense.

These considerations led the Commission to secure at an early day, by proper legislation, the widening of Ninth avenue to one hundred feet, as far as the limits of the Park were proposed to extend; also, to widen Fifteenth street, the Coney Island road and Franklin avenue where connected with the Park boundary.

In all these cases, the additional width was arranged to be added on the side of the road next the Park, leaving the opposite lines unaltered, and as laid down on the city maps.

The Park Commission have never lost sight of the advantages which, in their judgment, would result from such adjustment of the bordering streets of the Park, and when it was proposed by the town of Flatbush, to lay cut a street upon the south-easterly border of the Park, the proposition only contemplated the construction of a 60-foot road, making no provision for a sidewalk of any kind on the Park side, a scheme which, however unmindful its projectors may have been of the interests of the Park, was entirely within the power of the people of Flatbush, who had been duly authorized by law to carry out the project.

At this juncture, the Commission saw the possibility of accomplishing the unity and completion of its design in a manner not heretofore contemplated, and at such reasonable cost as to warrant a prompt consideration of the subject.

The result of the negotiation was to secure the success of this desirable feature of the plan, by assuming on the part of

the city, one-half of the cost of the proposed improvement, in consideration of such modification as would secure to the Park a sidewalk, over which the Commission should hold absolute jurisdiction, of thirty feet in width.

The Commission feel that they have attained a very desirable object by this arrangement, at an exceedingly moderate cost to the city, as compared with its attainment under the only other circumstances possible, namely, the absolute purchase of the land; while the addition of this street as a public thoroughfare of the same liberal dimensions as characterize the remaining boundaries of the Park, has been secured for all time. If this change had not been made, an appearance of contraction and limitation would have resulted, which would have been the more glaring as the use of the Park increased, and a failure in design would have been suggested, in an essential particular, of breadth and uniformity of boundary.

In view of the extent and variety of the legal proceedings which have been involved in the really great enterprise entrusted to its charge, the Commission would seem to have failed to satisfactorily discharge their duties and implied obligations without taking such steps under existing circumstances as would be likely to secure the city's interest, in all matters pertaining to its legal business, especially such as are connected with the collection of assessments, or making all needed provisions to enforce penalties properly incumbent upon them or their possible successors, or to arrange for the transfer of the business in such an intelligible shape as to enable the legal representatives of the city, under the new charter, to carry out the objects of the law.

The collection of assessments for improvements outside of the city, under the charge of the Commission, has been done in exact accordance with the existing laws, in a proper and economical manner, and without interference or embarrassment to any of the city departments, and the Commission feel justified in making the statement that it could not have been done at a less cost or under more favorable circumstances.

The Commission desire to complete this work of collecting assessments, as far as it is possible to do so. They have felt



much concern in the unfortunate delay, due to the claimed informalities of the law, which has served, in the hands of opposing interests, to delay the carrying out of the reasonable intent of the law, but which must sooner or later result to secure such action from the courts, as will result to the benefit of the city.

### PARK ASSESSMENTS.

The proceedings of the Commissioners, appointed by the Supreme Court several years since, were brought to a close this fall, their report having been submitted to and confirmed by the Supreme Court on the 28th of November of this year.

The length of time occupied and delay in terminating their labors, were due to the fact that they were prevented by the terms of the law from commencing their work until after the confirmation of the last report on land taken for the extension of the Park, concerning which, questions were then in issue before the Court of Appeals.

Until, therefore, the boundaries of the Park could be absolutely determined upon, neither the cost of the land to be taken could be known, nor consequently could the district of assessment be properly established, until the Court had rendered its decision.

The labors performed by the Commissioners of Assessment have been of a very responsible and difficult nature, and have given entire satisfaction to the Commissioners of the Park.

As officers of the court, they were required to limit the whole amount of the assessment to the sum of one million four hundred and eighty thousand three hundred and eighty-two dollars, in accordance with the enactments of the Legislature, reducing the amount to be raised from three million dollars, to the sum before mentioned.

It is understood that the Commissioners of Assessment were in favor of the larger sum, as representing more nearly the value of the benefit derived by the surrounding property, but the intervention of the law prevented such action on their part, as would have been more satisfactory to this Commission and just to the city.

As shown by this report, the assessment upon the property

benefited within the city of Brooklyn, amounts in the aggregate to one million two hundred and thirty-six thousand six hundred and fifty-five dollars, (\$1,236,655.)

The Commissioners also laid an assessment of two hundred and forty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven dollars (\$243,737) upon the town of Flatbush, adjoining the southerly boundary of the Park, making in all the amount of one million four hundred and eighty thousand three hundred and ninety-two dollars (\$1,480,392) assessed upon adjacent property for benefit.

The work of the Assessment Commissioners was submitted in two reports, one for the district within the city and the other for the town of Flatbush; the Court confirmed the first, but disaffirmed the second report, pertaining to Flatbush.

The Commissioners have accordingly taken an appeal to a higher court, with a view to establish the legality of their assessment.

No question of the propriety of levying this assessment is entertained by the Commission, and in view of its justice it would seem that the matter involves only such delay as would be requisite to correct the supposed technical defects in the law, through which interested parties have been able to evade the payment of so just a charge.

This assessment is made by law payable in twenty years, either in annual instalments or all at once, at the option of owners. Any balance unpaid in the interim, becomes a lien upon the property year by year until paid. Five per cent. of the amount of the assessment, therefore, is paid each year into the city treasury, toward a fund to be accumulated for the redemption of bonds issued by the city for the Park improvement.

In addition thereto, an annual interest of seven per cent. is charged against all balances unpaid.

The confirmation of the report of the Commissioners of Assessment, therefore, so far as it applies to the city, has already put into operation the liquidation of the Park debt.

Dated January 1st, 1874.

J. S. T. STRANAHAN, *President.*

JOHN H. PRENTICE, *Secretary.*

JOHN N. TAYLOR, *Comptroller.*

- AN ABSTRACT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
OF THE  
BROOKLYN PARK COMMISSION,

FOR THE YEAR 1873.

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*Receipts.*

The total receipts on account of PROSPECT PARK during the year 1873 were :

Balance to credit January 1st....	\$1,002 07
Received from the Comptroller of the city.....	\$500,000 00
Received for rent of buildings in the Park....	5,942 16
Received for wagons, etc., sold.....	1,000 00
“ “ insurance return pre- miums.....	28 73
Received for buildings sold.....	195 00
“ “ shrubs and plants sold.	48 08
“ “ water sold .....	50 20
“ “ cattle sold.....	50 00
“ “ carriage fares.....	1,335 15
“ “ license fees.....	500 00
“ “ tools.....	100 00
“ “ Ninth av. and Fifteenth st. grading.....	24,506 52
Received for Evans pavement.....	2,132 10
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto;"/> 535,887 94
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto;"/> \$536,890 01



*Expenditures.*

The total expenditures on said Park for the same time were:

Paid salaries comptroller, superintendent, architects, and engineers.....	\$21,041 53
Paid surveyors, draughtsmen, and assistants.....	14,583 46
“ laborers, mechanics, horses, and carts.....	239,124 67
“ materials of construction, tools, etc.....	78,853 87
“ office expenses, rents, insurance.....	3,997 83
“ stationery and printing.....	7,202 39
“ manure and other fertilizers.....	1,274 95
“ surveyors’ instruments.....	560 50
“ drainage pipe.....	2,052 52
“ patent pavements.....	25,733 41
“ structures erected by contract.....	31,343 20
“ legal expenses of additional counsel.....	350 00
“ horse feed.....	3,985 02
	<hr/>
	\$430,103 35
Balance December 31, 1873.....	106,786 66
	<hr/>
	\$536,890 01

## WASHINGTON PARK.

The total receipts and expenditures on account of Washington Park for the same time were:

*Receipts.*

Balance to credit, Jan. 1st, 1873.....	\$11,762 63
Received from Comptroller of city.....	25,000 00
Balance.....	2,554 47
	<hr/>
	\$39,317 10

*Expenditures.*

Paid surveyors and assistants.....	\$305 96
“ materials of construction.....	57 60
“ trees, shrubs, and plants.....	220 00
“ on account of inclosing wall.....	32,243 71
“ laborers, horses, and carts.....	1,598 32
“ patent and other pavements.....	4,891 51
	<hr/>
	\$39,317 10

## TOMPKINS PARK.

*Receipts.*

Balance to credit, Jan. 1st, 1873.....	\$1,141 98
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*Expenditures.*

Paid surveyors and assistants.....	\$4 16	
“ trees, shrubs, and plants.....	658 62	
“ laborers, horses, and carts.....	152 72	815 50
Balance .....		<u>\$326 48</u>

## CITY PARK.

*Receipts.*

Received from city .....	\$10,000 00
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*Expenditures.*

Paid surveyors and assistants.....	\$718 35	
“ laborers, horses, and carts.....	5,509 13	6,227 48
Balance .....		<u>\$3,772 52</u>





REPORT  
OF THE  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.

TO THE BROOKLYN PARK COMMISSIONERS :

*Gentlemen :*

The object of the work which has been done on the Brooklyn Park, during the eight years [in which we have had the honor to serve your Commission, has been the creation of scenes of natural character as attractive and graceful as the local conditions would allow, and their advantageous presentation.

With respect to the improvement of the scenery, the work done has, so far, been but preparatory to the greater work asked of nature ; the constructions, through the use of which it was to be enjoyed, such as roads, walks, shelters, and places of refreshment, were, on the other hand, to be turned out complete at once. It was therefore inevitable that these constructions should, for a certain period, assume undue importance. In the greater part of the Park that period is already well-nigh passed ; special search must be made to find a scene in which nature does not reign supreme, or in which, if artificial objects are to be recognized, they are not relatively unimportant and unobtrusive incidents of convenience.

The general character of the scenery of the Park, even in its present formative condition, is undeniably broad, simple, and quiet, yet the variations of the surface, and the disposition of open woods, thickets, glades, meadows, and of still and running waters, is such that it cannot be deemed monotonous. Its characteristic features in these respects are to be strengthened not only by growth, but also almost equally by timely reduction of

whatever will tend to the weakening of distinctive qualities, or to the repression of elements intended to be aggrandized.

There were originally two main bodies of natural wood on the site of the Park, connected by a narrow belt at the point where the Long Meadow is now most contracted ; the eastern body being broken by bays where the Nethermead, the head of the Lull-water, and the Deer Paddock now are.

The trees had grown thickly, their lower limbs were dead or dying, and two-thirds of all, though yet of but moderate size, were decayed in the trunk. Many had, also, been mangled by violence.

Where a sufficient proportion of these old trees were not yet decrepid and drawn up by the effect of excessive shade beyond the possibility of restoration to moderately well-proportioned and umbrageous forms, the less promising have been taken out and an attempt made to develop open-wooded or park-like scenery. So far as proper means for this purpose have been used, the result at this time is even better than had been expected, but apprehension of the effect of wind and unwillingness to even temporarily destroy the beauty and materially lessen the shade of those parts of the Park which, until the advance of new plantations, would alone be attractive resorts, has so far caused twice as many trees to be spared as is desirable, and has prevented the adequate topping of others. In this respect much in the way of judicious removal remains to be done to enhance the beauty of the Park.

In other parts of the old woods, where trees which possessed either dignity or picturesqueness were more rare, it has been sought, by planting young trees and underwood about and among them, to develop bosky masses of foliage, in which the old trees should supply the upper parts, their poverty below being hidden by the new. Effects which are very satisfactory were thus obtained with great rapidity in those portions of the East Woods where foot visitors are confined to the walks.

These effects are, however, dependent on the maintenance of a rich, low growth, which without attention will soon fail.

Great care has been taken to secure a natural and picturesque edge to the old woods, both by breaking into them and by planting beyond them the lowest-headed large trees that could be procured. Similar trees have also been used to prevent as far as possible the occurrence of a strong contrast between the old woods

and the new plantations. The shape of the ground (its natural features being almost invariably enlarged in the process of grading) has been favorable to the desired result, the outer and more conspicuous parts of the masses being on lower ground than those interior, and the few large trees under these circumstances giving character to the whole.

Most of the plantations, especially on the northern part of the Park, are on very bleak ground, and to lessen the severity of the exposure of the young plants, as well as to provide against and secure greater immediate effects to the eye, many trees have been planted in addition to those intended to remain. That the permanent trees may have the required vigor and not be crowded into ungainly forms, a gradual thinning out of these plantations, a little every year for many years to come, is essential.

The chief defect in the scenery of the Park, at the present time, lies in the backward condition of the plantations in the southern part of the Long Meadow, west of the Lake, and south and west of Lookout Hill. This is primarily due to the fact that they were the last made, but it also should be remembered that there has been much more difficulty in procuring suitable soil for these parts in adequate quantities, and that to bring them to a satisfactory condition unusually liberal top-dressing will therefore be needed.

We have not in previous reports duly expressed our obligations to Mr. Bullard, who throughout the work has been in direct superintendence of the planting. Comprehending with a true artistic spirit the intention of the landscape design as a whole, he has spared no study or personal labor to secure the means of its realization in detail.

The surface of the water in the Lake is not yet ordinarily seen at the elevation with reference to which all the associated elements of scenery have been designed. This serious defect, which detracts much from the variety of the shore lines, and consequently from the beauty of the Lake itself (to a degree which can be hardly imagined), is due to the leakage of the water basin, and is expected to be gradually corrected by the action of natural causes.

The charm of the Park will lie chiefly in the contrast of its occasional bodies of low foliage, intricate, obscure, and mysterious, with the more open groves and woods, and of both with its fair expanses of unbroken turf. Its beauty will, therefore, de-



pend on the care and skill with which these respective qualities, each in its appropriate place, are nursed and guarded.

The areas of the Long Meadow and the Nethermead are so large, that it has been deemed unnecessary to maintain the restrictions usually enforced in public grounds in this climate upon walking on the turf. The attractions and the public value of the Park have thus been undoubtedly very much enhanced. But the two dangers which attend this course already begin to be manifest, and it is evident that unless strenuously guarded against, serious evils will sooner or later result. One of these dangers is that of the wearing out of the turf in streaks and patches, the other is that of the destruction of underwood, shrubs, and plants, and the hazardous and inconvenient straggling of visitors across drives and rides, arising from the difficulty of restricting the privilege of walking on the turf within proper limits. The first is to be prevented by so limiting the use of the turf that it will not be trodden upon when in a poachy condition, or when it is excessively dry and inelastic, and by the use of slight guards, frequently shifted from point to point, as patches or streaks of wear become evident. The other may be particularly guarded against by concealed or inconspicuous barriers, and by cautionary signs, but can be permanently kept within tolerable bounds only by special efforts for the purpose made by an active, vigilant, faithful, and numerous body of keepers.

There are certain conveniences still wanting in the Park, which can only be adequately and appropriately supplied by architectural structures of some magnitude. The rapid growth of the young woods would now, however, in nearly every case, save these from being unduly prominent, and the erection of the Lookout Tower, with the adjoining shelters, and of the Refectory at the east foot of the Lookout Hill, with the bridge near it, would be found not only to add much to the accommodation of visitors and the comfort with which the scenery of the Park would be enjoyed, but to make more intelligible and give needed emphasis to important elements of its general design.

We desire here to acknowledge the value of the services rendered to us and to your Commission by Mr. E. C. Miller, who was principal assistant when the working drawings were made for the Plaza and for the Endale, Meadowport, Nethermead, and Eastwood arches; also, by Mr. Bassett Jones, who prepared the working drawings required for the Cleftridge Span and for the Tower to be erected on Lookout Hill; also by Mr. Thomas

Wisedell, who had charge of the working drawings needed for the Concert Grove buildings and stonework and for the Martyrs Memorial at Fort Greene.

The main entrance to the Park, as yet, falls much short of manifesting the value of the arrangements which have been in large part carried out in connection with it, and we take the occasion to explain its design more fully than we have yet done.

The principal entrance to a large metropolitan park admits in its design of more than one theory of artistic arrangement. The contrast between the urban and the rural requires in some cases to be sharply drawn, the city enclosing the park as squarely and completely as a picture-frame encloses a picture. In other situations and under different circumstances a series of intermediate, partly rural and partly urban, effects may, with propriety, be introduced at the point of junction. In the Brooklyn Park, the latter arrangement seemed to be preferable for several reasons.

When the Reservoir and East Side Lands were, in accordance with our recommendation, discarded from the design, the Park at once became a unit of agreeable form. Its breadth of territory gradually increased as the visitor passed farther and farther from the main city entrance, and an opportunity evidently existed for a desirable and comparatively cheap extension of its southern boundary at some future time. The unsatisfactory feature was the shape of the entrance itself, left at the apex of a triangle which was apparently struggling to wedge its way into the street system of the city. To overcome this serious difficulty, the Plaza was introduced as a main elementary feature in the general design, and the land necessary for its construction was added to the Park territory before any improvements made by the Park Commission at the public expense had enhanced its value.

The intention controlling the arrangement of the Plaza plan will now probably be comprehended by the ordinary visitor to the Park, but the effect will be much more complete and artistic a few years hence, when the trees planted in the walks shall have attained a sufficient growth to give the definite skyline which is so much needed. As the design now stands, the apex of the triangle which forms the actual entrance has become a mere segment of an ellipse, eight hundred feet in diameter, and, therefore, on a scale large enough to contrast favorably even with such a wide street of approach as Flatbush avenue. Three large

masses of plantation are introduced outside the Park boundary in connection with the Plaza design, so that the rural element may be strongly suggested before the main entrance is reached.

The Park gateway should be a handsome architectural structure, with an arcade extending over the walk, so that many persons may with comfort wait for the cars at this point under cover when the weather is showery, and the pavement necessary to carry out this feature of the design has been designed and laid.

A platform for public meetings connects the centre of the Plaza with the city, and a large fountain basin is introduced as a central feature.

In the design for the fountain the aim has been to express clearly its special artistic purpose. An artificial flow of water on a liberal scale is prepared for, and has been calculated on from the outset. So long as the supply to the various jets is inadequate, this design will of course appear to be out of proportion to the result produced, but when the necessary additional forcing power is brought into operation, the stone base, with its bronze corona, will hardly be seen, and therefore will certainly not be considered too large an element in the general design.

It was evident that artificial light should be freely introduced in the Plaza, as it is a public promenade intended for night use; but it was also clear that the lines formed by the play of water and the general artistic effect in the Large Fountain would be much interfered with if a series of lamps elevated on the ordinary high posts should be a part of the design. The lighting has, therefore, been arranged for in connection with the railing for protection that surrounds the Fountain, the intention being, as mentioned in our last report, to have an interior circular line or ring of light below the eye and a few feet only above the water surface, so that the reflection of the globes would form a corresponding line that would be recognized as an element in the design, even by the ordinary observer.

At the north end of the platform, opposite the Lincoln statue, a public rostrum is proposed to be placed, the United States flag being displayed in connection with it. Whenever this feature is added the temporary staffs for the flags of the city and State now erected in the Plaza should be replaced by others of more elaborate and elegant design.

Respectfully, OLMSTED & VAUX,

JANUARY 1, 1874.

*Landscape Architects.*



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER.

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The construction work was resumed on the Park early in the month of April, and continued throughout the summer and fall months, giving employment, during the most favorable portions of the season, to about eight hundred men.

The larger part of this force was mainly engaged in completing the unfinished work of the preceding year, comprised within the areas lying along Ninth avenue and Fifteenth street, the south and west slopes of Lookout Hill, with their approaches, and the Pedestrian Concourse.

This included the hauling and distribution of the top-soil and fertilizing material, in conjunction with the final regulation of the surfaces for seeding, planting, and other incidental work necessary to fit these several areas for the public use.

The road and footways from the entrance at Ninth avenue and Fifteenth street to the Main Circuit Drive, together with the necessary shaping and planting of the bordering ground, were also completed, the main lines of walk to the south and west established, and the work brought to subgrade ready for the superstructure, the balance of the work being postponed for economical considerations, as in consequence of the generally unimproved condition of this portion of the city there exists no pressing need for this entrance.

The shaping and grading of the border and walk along Fifteenth street involved the moving of considerable material, and this has been done, and the fence of the usual pattern put up, thus completing the enclosure of the Park.

The more considerable items of work are given in detail as follows, together with an account of our operations, of a desultory character for the year:

### PLAZA.

Work within the Plaza, consisting mainly of mechanical work incident to the finishing of the Fountain and gas-work, has progressed slowly.

Iron lamp-posts have been placed around the interior line at intervals of thirty feet, alternating with the trees already planted, so that the lamps when lighted will be free from obstruction, and exposed to view as much as possible.

The supply-pipe was placed in the centre of the walk, so that all existing connections were, and future ones may be, made at the points furthest removed from the roots of the trees, and damage from escaping gas avoided as far as possible, securing, at the same time, the greatest facility of access in cases of needed repairs, etc., in the future.

### FOUNTAIN.

A bronze cast and wrought iron railing of special design has been erected around the Basin.

The railings are supported at intervals of five feet by massive brackets, the upper rail forming at once the supply pipe and support for the lamps, which are globe-shaped, and of vari-colored glass, ninety-six in all, and designed, when lighted, to assist in illuminating the Fountain and Basin on special occasions, when in use at night, as well as to light up the surrounding walk and carriage way.

### THE BRONZING PROCESS.

The application of bronze by the electro-plating process, for ornamental purposes, to metal designs of any considerable size or intricacy, especially for out-door use, has not been, until recently, attended with anything like substantial success in this country.

Ten years ago, from the results of experiments made in Paris, a number of ornamental cast-iron lamp-posts and the iron-work of the fountain of the Place de la Concorde were satisfactorily covered with bronze, and since that time considerable work for public streets and squares has been so treated, at a comparatively small cost, with much of the practical benefit, in point of appearance and durability, of the solid metal.

A first attempt was made by cleaning the cast-iron in weak acid solutions, with a first coating of copper, in a bath of double salts, and then a second, with that of sulphate of copper, which did not succeed on account of the defects and porosity in the surfaces of the cast-iron, and presence of sand, carbon, and sulphur, which rendered the deposit of copper ununiform and imperfect. By exposing castings thus imperfectly covered, the air and moisture penetrated to and oxidized the iron, and the copper

coating became loose and broke off, or otherwise left the work in a very unsatisfactory condition.

Subsequent experiments led to the use of a prepared varnish sufficiently elastic to adapt itself to the expansion and contraction of the metal, which was applied directly to the surface of the casting, and when nearly dry was covered with a coating of plumbago. The metal was then immersed in a galvano-plastic bath, by which process the manufacturers have continued to accomplish satisfactory results.

These methods have never been made public or patented by those skilled in their application abroad, but similar results have been arrived at by several parties in this country. A series of costly and tedious experiments were undertaken by Messrs. Baudion & Tucker, and at a later period the Architectural Electro Coppering Company, of New York, succeeded in adapting the process to general use in this country, and this company has very satisfactorily electro-plated the iron-work of the large fountain at the Plaza, together with the ornamental work at the Pedestrian Concourse, comprising the Terrace railings and the flower vases in that neighborhood.

Whether the process is precisely the same, or whether the results are to be as satisfactory as with its French counterpart, the limited experience here in this class of work is as yet insufficient to determine; but possible improvements in the methods of application are yet to be suggested.

The greater range in the temperature of the country, and the salt air peculiar to this neighborhood, may serve to modify its success, but in view of the many ways in which it can be applied to add to the ornamental character of iron-work designed for outdoor use, it is to be hoped that it may prove permanently successful.

The dome of the fountain, which was put into place late in the fall, is composed of four courses of Beton Coignet, or artificial stone, so called.

This material was prepared and cast in sectional pieces, under a contract with the New York and Long Island Coignet Stone Company, of this city, and was delivered at the site for a price which the President of the company states to be less than the cost of the labor and material involved in its preparation.

We have had a sufficient experience in the use of this material elsewhere on the Park to justify a belief in its strength and



bility for all practical purposes. Its comparative cheapness, together with the facility with which it can be prepared and furnished, renders it an excellent substitute for stone, either for ornamental work, or where strength and bulk alone are needed in ordinary construction.

The severer action of frost and the greater range of temperature to which compositions of this character are subjected in this country, naturally entails responsibility upon and suggests caution to the engineer and architect in their use; but this company, so far as the work at the Park may be considered a test, is to be commended for the habitual care taken to secure proper materials, and also for the steady uniformity maintained in the process of manufacture.

The size and proportions of this dome are hardly realized in consequence of the breadth of water-surface at its base.

Its diameter is thirty five feet, and height eighteen feet, and when completed it is to be surmounted by a bronze semi-spherical casting, which is now ready to be put into place, and out of which the water, aggregating nearly one hundred and twenty square inches of surface, will be thrown. The arrangement of pipes (necessarily of a somewhat complicated nature) has been made within the dome, and under a sufficient head of water to be hereafter provided for, it is intended to throw a central jet from a pipe six inches in diameter, to attain an elevation of one hundred feet in a single column, before being diffused in spray.

This effect will be enhanced by subordinate jets of water, breaking in the air at a lower height, and falling on all sides upon and over the stone-work into the main basin.

In addition to this display, water is to be thrown horizontally from three tiers of fan-shaped openings into the main basin.

The twenty-four trefoil-formed openings in the lower courses are to be filled with vari-colored glass. Behind each opening gas-jets have been introduced, with arrangements for attaching powerful reflectors, by which, when lighted, it is designed to throw strong lights through the colored glass, and through the water falling over the dome upon the surface outside.

The unfinished parts of this work will be completed during the coming spring.

The iron-work and fitting of the fountain and lamp-posts is done under contract by Janes & Kirtland, iron-workers, of New York.

## PEDESTRIAN CONCOURSE.

The operations in this neighborhood, comprised largely of mechanical work, were resumed in the month of April, much of the stone having been prepared during the winter for setting and carving.

The unfinished carving at the opening of the season was let by contract to Robert Ellen & Co., carvers, and was satisfactorily completed by the middle of September.

Of unfinished stone-work yet to be done there are two drinking fountains of granite, with bronze fittings, to be placed at each end of the water-wall, facing the Lake; also a broad coping, to serve as a landing-stone, to be placed upon the circular wall, on the right of the water front, to be used in the future for embarking and disembarking of passengers in the boats.

The materials for these portions of the work are in hand, and are to be delivered ready for setting early in the coming spring.

The foundation for a large open shelter facing the restaurant on the Upper Terrace, and designed for summer use, has been prepared, and is now ready for the superstructure.

## BUILDINGS.

The painting of the walls and ceilings of the Restaurant, in accordance with the original design, has been completed, together with some needed repairs to the roof.

The large shelter facing the Lake, on the South or Promenade Drive, has been completed. This structure consists of a line of carved posts extending along the front and back of the main walk, two hundred feet in length and thirty-five feet in width, properly framed and tied together, to support an awning to completely cover the walk at that point.

In the centre of the back line, and forming a part of the general construction, a small building has been placed, thirty by eighteen feet, within which are provided closets and wash-rooms, for both sexes, for public use.

The object of this structure is to afford shelter from the sun and storm for visitors in this neighborhood, its site having been selected for its convenience of access from the main thoroughfare drive, combining at the same time for visitors, pleasant views of the Lake, and facilities for viewing the driving on the Park without inconvenience.

Two additional rustic shelters, constructed of cedar and sassa-

fras woods, have been erected along the southerly shores of the Lake.

Additions have been made to the Skating-house Platform, temporarily used in the summer season for a boat-landing, by which its facilities have been increased in the public interest.

A frame and awning, with seating accommodation attached, has made this place a much-frequented resort in the pleasant weather.

Other buildings and structures on the parks have been kept in repair, and their uses enlarged, as the public requirements demand.

### DRIVES, RIDES, AND WALKS.

The only work done this year in this branch of construction work is the completion of the branch connecting the entrance at the junction of Ninth avenue and Fifteenth street with the main Western Circuit Drive, thus completing, so far as at present contemplated, our system of Park drives, with the exception of the proposed modification of the Willink Entrance, made necessary by the contemplated extension and opening of Ocean avenue in the town of Flatbush, parallel with the Park, into Flatbush avenue, on the easterly boundary, as a public thoroughfare.

No new rides have been constructed this year.

The rapid increase in the driving and riding in the Park renders the proper care and maintenance of the drives and rides more and more difficult, in view of the small amount of money that our limited maintenance fund will permit of being used for this purpose.

The number of vehicles entering the Park is much larger than ever before, and the use of the drives more general, now that the Main Circuit, with its intermediate connections, are completed. In consequence, the roadways are subjected to much more rapid wear of surface.

Such brief experience as the public have derived from the better class of pavements in this city and elsewhere, together with the increased excellence in point of comfort and convenience attained in the construction and manufacture of all classes of vehicles designed for pleasure-riding, has vitalized a demand for good roads everywhere, and a more constant, and I might say discriminating, criticism prevails with reference to our roads than ever before.

The Park drives are substantially built, and consist in bulk, of

broken stone and coarse gravel, upon which it was always intended that a surfacing of fine gravel or other suitable material should be placed and maintained, so that neither the wheels nor the shoes of the horses could possibly come in contact with the hard and uneven surfaces of the stone beneath.

The advantages of a good roadway, contemplated by this mode of construction to meet the exigencies of all seasons, can only be secured by a constant renewal of the worn surfaces, and this in the case of Park drives is absolutely necessary to derive the full benefit from them.

It is noticeable that the number of those who seek recreation and exercise in horseback riding is increasing each year.

With a ride of four miles in length, which in some respects combines exceptional attractions, it is naturally suggested that from the known healthful results of judicious exercise in this direction, the facility for making horseback-riding a feature in the physical culture of many young people in our city, is worthy of consideration on the part of parents.

The maintenance of our rides also forms a prominent item of expense, but so long as they are to be devoted to the use for which they were designed they should be maintained in as good order as is compatible with their mode of construction.

It has, however, never been claimed that the Park rides were intended to meet perfectly, the full requirements of a road exactly suitable for equestrians, nor would it be possible to do this except by an unjustifiably disproportionate expenditure of money.

A well settled, compact turf is perhaps the best adapted for equestrian exercise, and next to this, a bottom made up largely of light clay or loam.

It would be impossible to maintain the first within the limits of a continuous narrow roadway for general use, and the second would involve too much labor in picking up and softening the surface, or otherwise keeping it in such condition as to afford any material advantage over our present simple system of a gravel bottom, kept tolerably clear of stone at the surface.

### WALKS.

The walk system from Ninth street to the Fifteenth street entrance, and thence to the foot-entrance at Eleventh avenue, has been brought to subgrade ready for the superstructure, and further work postponed, as heretofore noted.



The walk leading from the proposed suspension bridge across the drive, near the foot entrance at Fifteenth street and Eleventh avenue, to the Terrace and Observatory, has been finished with a surface of bituminous concrete, and the necessary steps set along the walks.

The walks in the Pedestrian Concourse have also been completed, and the Upper Terrace being surfaced with concrete, and the walks below laid with blue-stone tile, diamond shape, laid in hydraulic cement. All the walks have been bordered with blue-stone curb, sixteen inches in depth and three inches in thickness, and set three inches above the level of the surface of the walks.

### LAKE AND WATER COURSES.

The increased efficiency of the clay puddling on the bottom and slopes has enabled us to maintain the water in the Lake at a level one foot higher than in the preceding year. The clay used for puddling was found on the Park, and although it contained a good deal of sand, the great saving in first cost of puddling justified its use for the purpose. It was expected that its retentive qualities would improve as the depth and pressure of the water increased. In addition to this, it was also anticipated that the silt, washed into the Lake through the drainage system from the roads and walk surfaces, would materially add to its efficiency by decreasing the porosity of the clay, due to the presence of the sand.

The results, during the past year, seem to have confirmed this judgment, the water having been at all seasons maintained within eighteen inches of the permanent summer level without difficulty.

The material surrounding and underlying the Park Lake is largely composed of sand and sandy loam, and is but little calculated in its original condition to resist the passage of water through it.

To construct an enclosure within which it was designed to hold water at a given height in such material contemplated extreme thoroughness in the work of puddling, as any serious loss of water by infiltration, added to the ordinary evaporation (which, during the warmer months of the year, equals, for a water-surface covered by the Lake, about five hundred thousand gallons of water per diem), would involve indefinite delay in accomplishing the design, or entail the necessity for an artificial supply in excess of our ordinary capacity.

As it is, the work has proved very satisfactory in its operation, and it may be safe to assume that the high level may be attained two or three years hence.

The necessity for a waste-weir and outlet-pipe will not, perhaps, prove very urgent at this time, as but occasional inconvenience only is likely to arise from excess of water, due to sudden, heavy, or prolonged storms, but its future usefulness in many respects cannot be doubted.

When needed, a connection can be readily made with a Flatbush sewer soon to be built, or filtering beds in the gravel or sand provided for temporary use.

Observations made during the preceding summer indicated that, as the result of a single storm, the flow of water into the Lake equalled twenty-five million gallons, while to raise the water one foot in height over the whole surface of the Lake requires but sixteen millions of gallons.

Occasional repairs to water-courses have been made, as required.

### DRAINAGE.

The building of basins, sewers, etc., and the putting in of all necessary pipe and tile work, has preceded or been carried on in connection with construction work as it progressed.

### WELL AND WATER DISTRIBUTION.

The pump at the Well has been worked twenty-two hours per day from April to October, inclusive, and ten hours per day for the balance of the year. Its service has been satisfactory in the main, having worked to an average daily supply of seven hundred thousand gallons of water.

Of this, two hundred thousand gallons are used each day for sprinkling the drives and approaches to the Park, supplying the buildings, drinking hydrants, small fountains, and closets, and the remainder was pumped through the water-course from the outlet at the Pool. It is customary to pump into the Reservoir on Lookout Hill, the lift being one hundred and seventy-five feet, in the morning, and in the latter part of the day into the line above referred to, as carrying the water through the water course into the Lake for ornamental purposes, the lift being one hundred and thirty-two feet. The water is turned into either of these lines, and by a third line directly into the Lake, the lift being sixty-eight feet, by stop-cocks under the control of the Engineer.

Much inconvenience and loss of water results from defective joints and connections of the water-pipe carrying the distribution through the Park, entailing besides much expense both in repairs and loss of water.

The large Fountain at the Plaza has been used daily during the afternoon, throughout the summer and fall months, the display being limited to four hours at the request of the Board of City Works, who control the supply to this Fountain.

The water distribution has been carried by proper supply-pipes and connections to the Pedestrian Concourse, the Promenade Drive Shelter, and to the other small buildings and closets erected during the year.

### PLANTATIONS.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining soil in the neighborhood, the surface of ground worked over this year has been but meagerly supplied in this respect.

Frequent cutting of the grass and growth of adjacent shrubbery will tend to a rapid exhaustion and deterioration of the soil, unless means are provided for resurfacing at an early day, or by annually supplying surface fertilization, give to the soil proper aid to sustain vegetation in its most desirable form.

### WASHINGTON PARK.

Work on the Martyrs' Memorial Tomb, which was interrupted by frost late in the preceding fall, was resumed in April last by the contractors, Messrs. R. Ellen & Co., and completed this year.

A brick vault twenty-five by eleven feet, was made the final receptacle of the residue of the remains of the martyrs, which, owing to the delapidated and neglected condition of the old vault on Hudson avenue when taken possession of by the Commission, were found in an unsatisfactory state. Many of the coffins were broken or defaced to such an extent as to render the work of completely restoring their contents and the reading of their labels or inscriptions impossible.

New boxes were prepared, and into them the old coffins, with their contents, as far as possible, were placed and enclosed, and were carefully removed to Fort Greene on the morning of the 17th of June, at daylight, to avoid attracting unnecessary attention.

The boxes were deposited in the vault, the opening closed, the vault covered with asphalt, and the surface restored.

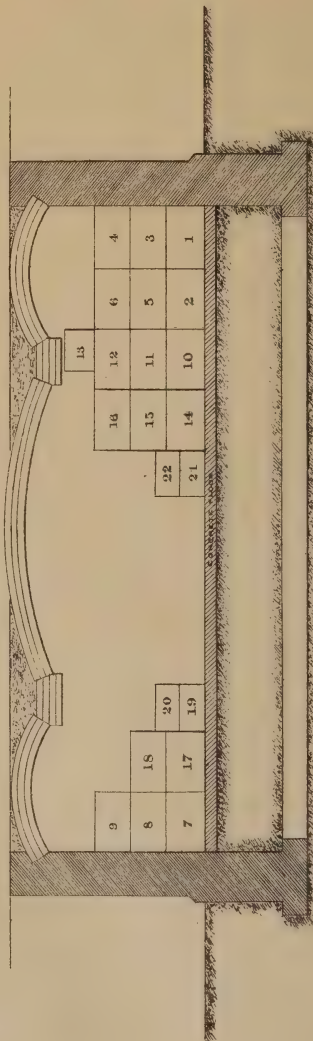
It was deemed to be unnecessary at the time to elicit any





# SECTION OF MARTYRS' MEMORIAL.

SHOWING POSITION OF THE REMAINS OF THE MARTYRS OF THE REVOLUTION  
WITH INSCRIPTIONS ON THE COFFINS, SO FAR AS KNOWN.  
NOW DEPOSITED IN THE VAULT AT FORT GREENE.



## REFERENCE

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Unknown               | 12 Rhode Island    |
| 2 "                     | 13 Drummer Boy.    |
| 3 "                     | 14 Virginia.       |
| 4 "                     | 15 Maryland.       |
| 5 "                     | 16 North Carolina. |
| 6 "                     | 17 Connecticut.    |
| 7 "                     | 18 New Jersey.     |
| 8 Delaware              | 19 Georgia         |
| 9 Major Benjamin Romane | 20 New York        |
| 10 Massachusetts        | 21 South Carolina  |
| 11 Pennsylvania         | 22 New Hampshire   |



Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch = 1 foot

*Geo. W. Carter*  
*clerk*

public demonstration in connection with their removal, as a future dedication of the proposed monument, now foreshadowed, would seem to provide a fitting occasion for a final tribute to those of our seamen, soldiers, and citizens who fell victims to the cruelties of the British, on board their prison-ships at the Wallabout, during the American Revolution.

The accompanying diagram illustrates the position of each of the twenty-two boxes now deposited in the tomb at Fort Greene, together with the inscriptions on the coffins, so far as it was possible to decipher them.

It is said that these remains represent in all some 12,000 of those who perished as heretofore stated, and whose removal to the former vault in Hudson avenue was made the occasion of a grand funeral procession on the 26th of May, 1808.

The history of the men who were confined, and who suffered and finally died in these floating dungeons, is here briefly related.

During the Revolution the British had stationed at the Wallabout, Long Island, nearly opposite the city of New York, a number of prison-ships, on board of which it was the fate of Americans who had become prisoners of war to be placed.

The principal of these were the "Jersey," the remains of whose hulk were still to be seen some years ago on the Long Island shore, the "John," the "Scorpion," the "Strumbolo," and the "Hunter."

From these the remains of the prisoners who died were removed from time to time, and deposited on the adjacent shores of the Wallabout.

The indignity and careless disregard of all propriety with which the dead were disposed of, is proved by the condition in which their remains were subsequently found, pressed and crowded in every position in shallow pits, with scarcely covering enough to protect them from the elements.

### CARROLL PARK.

The walks of Carroll Park have been resurfaced by the Long Island Composite Asphalt Company, the previous surfacing by the Fiske Pavement Company having proved a failure. With this exception, no other work beyond that usually required for the maintenance and care of the Park has been done this year.

No use has been made of this Park during the winter, for any purpose, by the public, and it is customary to close it during the months of December, January, and February of each year.

### TOMPKINS PARK.

No new work has been done on this Park.

A limited display of flowers was made through the summer. The walks and plantations were kept in order by the maintenance force, and all needed police surveillance provided.

The public in this neighborhood have taken considerable interest in the work and its preservation, and in the absence of a substantial fence and gate to secure the grounds at night, much is due to the residents surrounding the Park for the watchful care and assistance rendered the keeper on that post.

### CITY PARK.

The sum of ten thousand dollars having been appropriated by the Common Council for the improvement of City Park, the necessary plans were prepared and the work was commenced in July of this year.

It was found to be desirable to work over the whole surface; the lines of walks were rearranged and the grades modified, regraded, and surfaced with tar concrete.

Considerable filling was required to accomplish the object of the design. As a substitute for soil, street sweepings from the neighborhood were obtained at a great saving in hauling as compared with material to be obtained elsewhere, while fully answering the purpose.

For the final regulation of the surface, soil was procured from the East Side Lands, and this was put into condition at once for seeding and grass.

A number of the old trees, either dead or too unsightly to remain, were cut out and replaced with younger and more desirable material.

The appropriation was hardly sufficient to complete the work contemplated and desirable to be made, and a further appropriation for additional planting, drinking fountains, and for the regulation of the surrounding sidewalks, should be made.

The people of the neighborhood should manifest more concern, however, in carrying out the rules established for the preservation of order, etc.

### OCEAN PARKWAY.

Work was commenced on the Ocean Parkway in April of this year, and finished in December.

The preliminary examination and surveys were made during

the preceding winter. Plans and specifications were prepared, and proposals for doing the work in two sections advertised for, the whole to be let to the lowest responsible bidders. The contractors who secured the work were Mr. Thomas McCann and Mr. John P. Cranford, for the first and second sections, respectively, the price of the first section being \$17.94 per lineal foot, and the price of the second section being \$9.70 per lineal foot; the marked difference in the price per foot in the two sections being due to the fact that the plan for the first section called for curb and gutter on the three roadways.

The Parkway is to serve as a very desirable adjunct to the Park roads for the driving public of our city, besides giving character to the extended neighborhood through which it passes.

It commences at the circle at the southwesterly corner of the Park, thence running westerly a distance of nine hundred and seventy-two feet, and turning to the south on a curve of three hundred feet radius, in a direct line to the King's Highway in the town of Gravesend, a total distance of three and two-tenths miles.

The width of the Parkway is two hundred and ten feet to the adjoining property lines, with jurisdiction vested in the Commission over an additional thirty feet on each side.

The plan consists of a central drive of seventy feet in width, on either side of which the main walk, thirty feet in width, is constructed. The remaining space is devoted to a side or traffic road, twenty-five feet in width, with a sidewalk of fifteen feet for general use, the main driveway, though substantially built, being designed for pleasure-driving.

The central road is constructed of well-selected gravel, fifteen inches deep, upon a suitably formed subgrade, as follows:

Two layers of coarse gravel, six inches deep each, were separately applied and compacted by rolling or otherwise, the larger stones raked out of the surface, upon which a three-inch layer of screened gravel was placed and thoroughly sprinkled and rolled until a proper surface was secured.

Bluestone curb and gutter border the roadway on each side, and next to this, within and next to the gutter, a strip of cobblestone paving nine feet in width is laid, as an additional safeguard against damage from excess of water, etc.

The traffic roads were brought to an even subgrade and covered with six inches of gravel, approved as to size and quality, curbed and guttered, and a strip of cobble pavement two feet six



inches wide, continued along the inner line of the gutter on each side.

Within the main walks, soil one foot in depth has been placed on the sides, and the fifteen-foot sidewalks covered with a two-inch layer of gravel.

On the second section, the curb and gutter are omitted, and a gutter formed of cobble pavement four feet in width is substituted. In other respects the manner of constructing the roadways is the same.

A six-inch water-pipe, with the necessary stop-cocks and hydrants, was laid on the first section, extending from the Circle to within a short distance of the end of the first section, its purpose being to supply water needed for sprinkling the drives, horse-troughs, etc.

Suitable provisions for connecting the Parkway with the future drainage system of the neighborhood have been made, but which for the present, for obvious reasons, are inoperative at points where the grades change materially from the surrounding bed of the country.

Six rows of trees have been planted along the drives and main walks the entire length of the Parkway, at distances of thirty feet apart, as nearly and as uniformly as it was possible to arrange them.

To secure desirable variety of these plantings, the varieties are arranged distinctly so as to present characteristics and contrasts in habit and foliage, as clearly as possible, for general observation.

The following deciduous trees were selected as altogether comprehending the more desirable kinds for planting under the circumstances:

- Ulmus Americana, or.....American Elm,
- Ulmus Campetris, or.....English Elm.
- Gymnocladus Canadensis, or....Kentucky Coffee Tree.
- Acer plantanoides, or.....Norway Maple.
- Acer pseudo plantanus, or.....Sycamore “
- Acer Saccharinum, or.....Sugar “
- Acer Rubrum, or.....Scarlet “

These have been furnished by the contractors, planted, and suitably boxed to prevent damage from cattle or other animals.

Sufficient reservation has been made from moneys due to the contractors for the work, to secure the replacing of trees that may die through the winter, or otherwise prove unsatisfactory

in the ensuing spring, and also to cover any extraordinary expense of repair likely to occur within the time of acceptance of the work on the part of the Commission, provided for in the contract.

### EASTERN PARKWAY.

The Eastern Parkway, so much of it as lies within the area of the east side Park lands, from the Plaza to Washington avenue, was commenced last year, and the work completed during the present summer.

The planting of the Parkway in the several varieties of elm and maple is under contract to Mr. John Condon, of Brooklyn, and a part of this work is already done.

From Washington avenue to the city line, the work, which is being done by contract with Mr. Thomas McCann, contractor, is in various stages of progress, and it is expected that it will be completed and opened for public use during the ensuing spring.

### DOUGLASS AND DEGRAW STREETS.

The work of improving these streets was placed under the direction of the Park Commission by the Legislature of 1868, by petition of adjacent property-owners.

The improvement consisted in grading, paving, and otherwise regulating Douglass street to a width of one hundred feet, from New York avenue to the city line, a distance of 7,945 feet, and Degraw street to a width of thirty-five feet, from New York avenue to the city line, a distance of 7,510 feet.

These streets were put under contract as noted in a previous report last year, and have been satisfactorily completed by Messrs. Dillon & Smith, contractors.

### EAST SIDE LANDS.

Contracts for grading and paving Park place and Butler street, from Washington avenue to Vanderbilt avenue, were awarded to Mr. John Leech and Mr. John P. Cranford, respectively. Park place was completed and work on Butler street far advanced at the close of the year, but the acceptance of the work was deferred, for prudential reasons, to the spring.

The grading and paving of Underhill avenue from the Parkway to Prospect place was put under contract to Mr. William Sweeney, and but little work has been done at this time.

The work of lowering the water-main in Underhill avenue, connecting the Reservoir with the Warren street pumping-en-

gine, made necessary by the grading of the avenue to conform to established city grades, has been done by the Park force in conjunction with the Board of City Works, and is now in progress.

Large quantities of earth have been removed from the east side, and at a price much below the cost of moving it, in consequence of the existing needs of contractors under contract with the city to fill the low ground in the western part of the city. Considerable portions of the ground have been cleaned of surplus material, and graded at a nominal cost, with a very desirable effect upon the property itself.

### STATISTICS OF FORCE.

During the working season an average of 781 men were employed, the largest number at any time in the year being 859.

Active operations began April 2d, and were generally suspended in September.

*Statement showing the average number of force employed for the Months and Years noted.*

YEAR.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average Force for the Year.
1866. ....						*300	335	450	550	620	700	725	451
1867. ....	700	680	410	800	1000	1150	1200	1525	1750	1825	1800	1100	1187
1868. ....	944	812	508	1215	1047	1189	1095	1090	1116	1118	1167	912	1017
1869. ....	740	698	746	946	959	988	991	1006	975	946	552	204	812
1870. ....	139	134	134	164	594	721	661	730	806	889	858	845	551
1871. ....	735	645	679	1002	1144	1148	1105	1060	790	759	678	422	847
1872. ....	385	250	333	716	875	988	1022	1021	519	373	266	265	584
1873. ....	216	209	218	481	769	739	695	621	303	318	179	159	409

During the year there were two hundred and seventy-one (271) working days, during which the larger part of the force was employed.

The details of the force employed for the year, are as follows:

1 General foreman.

6 Barrow gangs.

A portion of one at Fort Greene averages 12 men and 2 carts,

\*Work commenced on the Park in the latter part of June, 1866.

and one at City Park averages 25 men, 8 carts and 2 teams. Work on City Park began May 7th, and was suspended Oct. 3d.

1 Cart gang, average 12 men and 37 carts.

1 Team gang, average 7 men and 54 teams.

1 Miscellaneous gang, average 29 men.

Of this force, 13 men and 5 teams were required for the sprinkling and general maintenance of roads, and 25 men, 1 cart, and 4 horses for miscellaneous work; it being customary to increase or decrease the maintenance force as the necessities of the work and the limited fund required.

### MECHANICAL FORCE.

1 Foreman of stone-cutters and stone and brick masons.

52 Stone-cutters.

12 Stone-masons.

2 Bricklayers.

1 Foreman of carpenters.

15 Carpenters.

1 Foreman of blacksmiths.

2 Blacksmiths.

3 Helpers.

1 Foreman of rustic-work.

3 Rustic carpenters.

The gardening force, under the general direction of Mr. O. C. Bullard, was as follows:

1 Foreman.

8 Master gardeners.

12 Skilled laborers.

122 Laborers.

### KEEPER FORCE.

1 Head keeper.

1 Clerk.

2 Wardens.

44 Keepers.

### DISTRIBUTION.

Prospect Park:

2 Wardens.

24 Keepers.

Washington Park:

4 Keepers.



City Park :

2 Keepers.

Carrol Park :

2 Keepers.

Tompkins Park :

2 Keepers.

Resignations..... 1 Keeper.

Discharges..... 1 “

Suspensions..... None.

Fines have been imposed instead of suspension for breach of discipline.

Promotions..... None.

### ARRESTS.

Fast driving..... 6

Disorderly..... 42

---

48

Lost children returned to their homes, 4

Sheltered..... 33

A number of cases under the head of disorderly conduct were disposed of at the station by reprimand and caution, as were also part of the fast-driving cases.

Those not so disposed of were sent to court and convictions obtained.

The numbers sheltered consisted mainly of destitute persons.

### ACCIDENTS.

Sunstroke, 3; none resulted fatally.

Skating, 2; not serious.

Carriage accidents, 101; none very serious except the one mentioned below.

Deaths, 2; as follows:

July 15th. A boy about seven years of age found drowned in the Pool, near Trout Pond.

July 28th. The infant child of Mr. Robert S. Fleet, of Williamsburg, killed by being thrown from a carriage, the horses attached to which had run away.

Animals impounded..... 27

Mad dogs killed..... 2

Skating commenced December 23, 1872, and ended March 2, 1873. Total number of days of skating, 50.

## PARADES.

Brigade .....	2
Division .....	1
Cavalry.....	2
Total .....	5

Concerts, commencing May 31st, 22 for the season.

Number of base-ball permits issued during the year, about 700.

The picnic and family parties using the picnic woods during the season numbered several hundred.

RETURN OF VISITORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DE-  
CEMBER 31ST, 1873, ESTIMATED.

MONTHS.	CARRIAGES.	EQUESTRIANS.	PEDESTRIANS.	SLEIGHS.	TOTAL.
January .....	39,039	1,592	105,624	169,044	315,299
February .....	52,617	1,229	59,479	117,327	230,751
March .....	235,443	3,243	94,838	1,563	335,087
April .....	368,697	6,159	125,637	.....	500,493
May .....	554,343	9,399	372,560	.....	936,302
June .....	557,619	8,136	311,668	.....	877,423
July .....	478,260	5,239	269,864	.....	753,363
August .....	416,115	5,351	277,975	...	699,441
September. ....	493,458	5,860	220,446	.....	719,764
October. ....	445,416	6,050	170,210	.....	621,676
November. ....	301,863	4,492	75,278	.....	381,633
December .....	238,509	4,447	41,768	28,689	313,413
	4,181,478	61,197	2,125,347	316,623	6,684,645

Largest number of visitors on any one day, May 28th,  
 (Sunday-school Union anniversary) ..... 93,387  
 Total number of visitors on Sundays ... .. 1,761,804

### PARK FURNITURE.

One hundred and twelve iron-frame settees have been constructed during the year, in addition to those already in use. We have of these, and other forms of construction for seating, the following:

#### PROSPECT PARK.

Iron-frame seats, 4 feet long.....	113	
“ “ 5 “ “ .....	100	
“ “ 7 “ “ .....	300	513
Rustic seats, 6 “ “ .....		44
Wooden seats, 6½ “ “ .....	500	
“ “ 13 “ “ .....	35	535

#### CARROLL PARK.

Iron-frame seats, 5 feet long.....	25	
“ “ 7 “ “ .....	63	88
Rustic seats, 6 “ “ .....		6

#### WASHINGTON PARK.

Iron-frame seats, 4 feet long.....	20	
“ “ 5 “ “ .....	15	
“ “ 7 “ “ .....	64	99
Rustic seats, 6 “ “ .....		1

#### CITY PARK.

Iron-frame seats, 5 feet long.....	4	
“ “ 7 “ “ .....	18	22

#### TOMPKINS SQUARE.

Iron-frame seats, 5 feet long.....	6	
“ “ 7 “ “ .....	15	21

The following is an exhibit of the numbers and varieties of live stock, birds, etc., of all kinds, belonging to the Commission:

HORSES.	COWS.	HEIFERS.	BULLS.	SHEEP.	LAMBS.	DEER.	GOATS.	EAGLES.	SWANS.	PEAFOWLS.	GEESE.	DUCKS
14	16	21	1	19	5	16	4	3	4	10	34	45

A variety of machinery, accumulated during the progress of construction, including derricks, gearing, and labor-saving machines, the property of the Commission, are stored within the Park with little prospect of further use, and are likely to deteriorate in value and usefulness, from exposure and want of use.

The Commission owns a sufficient number of watering trucks to answer the requirements of this branch of maintenance work, upon which the horses belonging to the Commission are mainly employed during the fine weather of summer and fall.

The following material has been purchased during the year for fertilizing purposes:

- 501 Two-horse loads horse manure.
- 2066 One-horse " street " (mainly used at City Park.)
- 175 Two-horse loads of leaf-mold.

### DONATIONS.

The following is a list of gifts to the Commission, and from whom:

- 2 China geese, from H. Eggles, Brooklyn.
- 1 Alligator, (since died) from Watson & Pettinger, Brooklyn.
- 1 Parrot, from A. Hodenphyl, Brooklyn.
- 1 Brahma Bull, from G. W. Dow & Sons, Brooklyn.
- 1 Deer, from J. T. Easton, Brooklyn.
- 1 Calf, from Owen Cook, "
- 2 Alligators, from E. G. Colton, Brooklyn.
- 2 Eagles, from H. A. Fuller, Brooklyn,
- 1 Eagle " M. Myers, "
- 2 Swans, " L. Delmonico, New York City.
- 1 Sheep, " H. J. Apperly, " "

### BOATING SERVICE.

This service, inaugurated the previous year by a contract made with Mr. E. O'Brien, has continued under the same management.

The season commenced April 27th, and was suspended for the year November 8th. The following statement by the lessee, Mr. E. A. O'Brien, shows the receipts and expenditures in connection with the boating service in the Park, from April 27th to November 11th, 1873:



Gross receipts.....		\$4,466 87
Expenditures:		
1 New 19-foot sail-boat.....	\$425 00	
Painting and overhauling boats...	220 00	
Boat-fittings.....	133 55	
Miscellaneous articles.....	141 12	
Maintenance.....	14 50	
Wages, .....	2,720 25	\$3,654 42
Balance .....		<u>\$812 46</u>

Total number of passengers carried..... 43,246

Notwithstanding the apparently large number of passengers carried during the season, the organization of the service on Mr. O'Brien's part entailed too large an expenditure for boats, equipments, and uniforms, to warrant the expectation of any profit for this year. He has, however, by supplying good boats and competent men, and by a careful personal supervision, made boating a popular feature of the Park attractions, and has given evidence of being competent to manage the business to the satisfaction of the Commission.

### THE CARRIAGE SERVICE.

Three large vehicles designed to carry visitors about the Park were purchased by the Commission in the summer of 1872, and put into use for the public convenience with very satisfactory results. A charge of twenty-five cents was made for the single tour of the drives, thus affording, under very pleasant circumstances, a comfortable ride of four miles and opportunities for seeing the most prominent features of the Park at small cost.

Early in the spring the Commission disposed of the carriages and equipments to Mr. Isaac Harris, at a just valuation, and the further administration of the service was assigned to him for a certain annual payment, as shown on the books of the Commission.

The number of carriages was increased during the year to four, and the contractor has otherwise fairly met the public demands and satisfactorily complied with the terms of his agreement.

### PUBLIC USE OF THE PARKS.

The liberal policy adopted by the Commission as regards the use of the Park and enjoyment of its resources by the public, has been justified by observation and experience.

The larger part of visitors are considerate and thoughtful of the license accorded them. Conspicuous police surveillance, and the restraint and limitation naturally suggested thereby, is avoided as much as possible.

The abuse of privilege comes from the vicious few and the thoughtless.

Frequent petty thefts of flowers and shrubbery occur, and occasionally acts of wanton destruction of property and abuse of privilege are perpetrated, by those whose vicious cunning is sufficient often to enable them to elude the vigilance of the keepers, who are required in the discharge of their duties to patrol a large range.

The violations of the ordinance against fast driving are less frequent, and the pleasure and safety of the roads, to timid and inexperienced drivers, as well as to the general public, greatly enhanced thereby.

In the smaller parks, particularly, much embarrassment results from an insufficiency of keepers, the maintenance fund being too small to warrant the employment of such number of men as experience and a proper regard for the best interests of the community seem to demand.

For children especially the small parks afford pleasant and available resorts for out-door recreation in fine weather, and it is very important that all possibilities of danger and accident should be avoided, as well as annoyances and intrusions guarded against, by the employment of a force of keepers sufficient to ensure all needed surveillance.

Fortunately, the number is not large of those who fail to recognize the value of order or who seek to abuse the freedom or make improper use of the privileges secured to all by the ordinances of the Commission, and it is hoped that there will be less complaint, and less reason for it, in the future, of annoyance from those whose misuse of their rights make them a nuisance to law-abiding citizens.

The Park has happily come to be the popular resort for picnic gatherings of all kinds, church and school organizations, and social parties, making the use of the grounds more specially adapted to this purpose constant throughout the season of fine weather.

The facility with which the grounds can be reached from all parts of the city, and the freedom from danger of accident so

common to the transportation of large numbers of children, have no doubt added to the popularity of the Park in this respect.

In addition to this, the Commission have provided, without charge, tables, seats, and swings, with needed water supply and proper police surveillance, so that added to the ordinary attractions of the Park, it is believed that no similar accommodation exists that is at present available for such purposes.

During the year three hundred parties made use of the grounds in this way.

On the 28th day of May the Sunday-schools composing the Prospect Park Division, and numbering 23,000 children, held their anniversary exercises in the Park under the most favorable circumstances. Later in the season a picnic of Dr. Talmage's Church was held, in which it is estimated 18,000 visitors participated.

### PARK CONCERTS.

The regular concert season opened on Saturday, May 31st, with the band of the Twenty-third Regiment, N. G., under the leadership of Mr. L. Conterno.

Twenty-two concerts were given, the concluding concert of the season occurring on Saturday, October 25th, 1873.

It is believed that the concerts, in point of excellence of the performance and selection of music equal any out-door musical entertainment ever given in this country, and when the expense of the concerts is considered, as in relation to the large number of those who are directly benefited by them, their justification, if any is needed, is apparent to all.

### JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

A notable event of the year was the unveiling of the bronze bust of John Howard Payne, the author of "Home, Sweet Home," at the site near the Dairy Cottage, on Saturday, the 27th day of September. The ceremonies consisted of the presentation of the bronze bust and base of granite on behalf of the Faust Club, by the Hon. Thomas Kinsella, its President, and its acceptance for the city by the Hon. J. S. T. Stranahan, President of the Park Commission, in appropriate speeches; the unveiling by Mr. H. Baerer, the sculptor, and an ovation by the Hon. Wm. C. DeWitt, member of the club; the whole interspersed with suitable music, and singing by the public school children of the city of Brooklyn.

An inscription on the base as follows :

“TO JOHN HOWARD PAYNE,  
Actor, Journalist, Dramatist,  
and the Author of  
‘Home, Sweet Home,’

This Monument is Erected by the Faust Club  
of the City of Brooklyn,  
1873,”

briefly records his characteristics, and but barely indicates the talent and breadth of mind possessed by this gifted American.

Until this memorial was erected, he was while living, a stranger in a strange land, and dying on a foreign shore, his memory had almost perished, despite his authorship of the most pathetic and universally known song which has ever preserved or awakened the recollection of home.

At the suggestion of Mr. Gabriel Harrison, an artist and author of this city, this monument was erected by the Faust Club of Brooklyn, composed of professional gentlemen, who sought in this way to perpetuate the name of John Howard Payne, as an author, journalist, and dramatist, with the hope that other organizations might emulate their example, and while enriching the public grounds by the addition of such works of art, would at the same time secure worthy recognition to many men of genius now sleeping in forgotten graves.

#### ENGINEER CORPS.

During the year the corps has been composed of:

- 3 Assistant engineers.
- 2 Levelers.
- 4 Rodmen.
- 18 Chainmen.
- 3 Axmen.

This force has been distributed over the several parks, and the Eastern and Ocean Parkways, under the charge of the Commission.

Messrs. Thomas Stratford, John B. Dunclee, and T. P. Kinsley, assistant engineers; Mr. John Maguire, general foreman in active charge of the labor force, and Mr. Wm. H. Spear, chief clerk, are commended to the Commission as faithful and intelligent assistants, whose long services render them valuable adjuncts in the thorough and economical administration of work.



## METEOROLOGY.

With my report will be found the usual synopsis of meteorology for the year, which is the result of regular and careful observations.

During the year a weekly statement has been supplied to the Board of Health of this city, by which they have been enabled to secure an interchange of similar statements with all the large cities throughout the Union, in connection with current statistics of general interest and of special value to the medical profession.

Our instruments are few in number, though the best of their kind, and their capacity for observation is necessarily limited. An appropriation of \$1,000 would enable us to perfect our observatory and to secure results that in point of scientific usefulness would be all that could be desired in this city, while adding at the same time an interesting and instructive feature to the Park.

## METEOROLOGY TABLE, No. 1.

*Table showing the observed height of the Barometer monthly, for the year ending December 31st, 1873.*

MONTH, 1873.	MEAN AT 7 A. M.	MEAN AT 2 P. M.	MEAN AT 9 P. M.	MONTHLY MEAN.	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM.	DIFFERENCE OF RANGE.
January.....	30.123	30.070	30.094	30.096	30.576	29.598	.978
February....	30.011	29.960	30.010	29.994	30.474	29.245	1.229
March.....	29.985	29.942	29.989	29.972	30.618	29.253	1.365
April.....	29.967	29.925	29.984	29.959	30.245	29.569	.676
May .....	30.049	30.013	30.048	30.036	30.419	29.591	.828
June .....	30.042	30.113	30.022	30.059	30.400	29.659	.741
July .....	30.057	30.037	30.051	30.048	30.318	29.843	.475
August.....	30.097	30.079	30.096	30.091	30.366	29.861	.505
September..	30.121	30.090	30.119	30.110	30.411	29.750	.661
October ....	30.083	30.053	30.058	30.065	30.511	29.415	1.096
November ..	29.982	29.952	30.008	29.981	30.582	28.954	1.628
December...	30.167	30.116	30.133	30.139	30.616	29.460	1.156

Annual mean at 7 A. M. ....	30.057
“ 2 P. M. ....	30.030
“ 9 “ ....	30.051
Annual mean of 1,095 observations .....	30.046
Maximum, 7 A. M., March 6th. ....	30.618
Minimum, November 18th. ....	28.954
Range. ....	1.664

### METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, No 2.

*Table showing the state of the Thermometer monthly, for the year ending December 31st, 1873.*

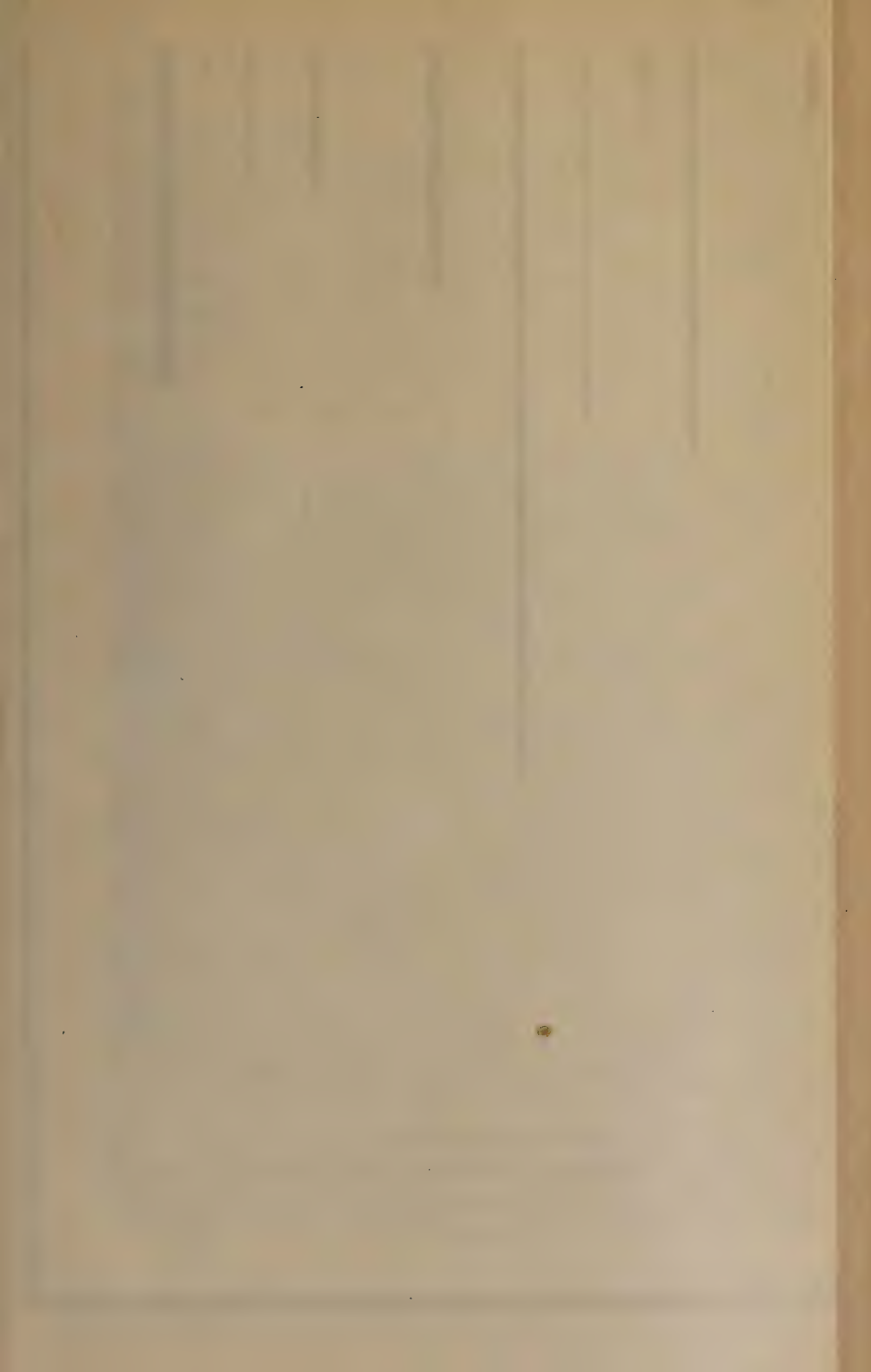
MONTH, 1873.	MEAN 7 A. M.	MEAN 2 P. M.	MEAN 9 P. M.	MONTHLY MEAN.	MAXIMUM.	MINIMUM.	DIFFERENCE OF RANGE.
January ....	23.16	28.93	26.29	26.13	51.	5.	56.
February ....	23.78	29.87	28.	27.21	52.	3.50	55.50
March. ....	30.90	37.66	33.90	34.15	52.50	8.	44.50
April. ....	42.64	49.96	44.12	45.57	63.	32.	31.
May. ....	54.48	62.84	55.	57.44	86.50	37.50	49.
June. ....	66.38	75.03	66.72	69.37	93.	50.	43.
July. ....	72.05	79.42	72.64	74.70	90.	59.	31.
August. ....	68.06	75.42	69.37	70.95	89.	55.	34.
September ..	60.83	69.45	63.30	64.52	87.	42.50	44.50
October. ....	49.95	59.82	53.54	54.43	71.50	32.	39.50
November ..	33.08	40.08	36.18	36.45	57.	20.50	36.50
December ...	32.02	37.97	35.23	35.07	62.50	17.	45.50

Annual mean at 7 A. M. ....	46.44
“ 2 P. M. ....	53.87
“ 9 “ ....	48.69
Annual mean of 1,095 observations. ....	49.67
Maximum June 19th. ....	93.
Minimum January 30th. ....	5.
Range. ....	98.

## METEOROLOGICAL TABLE No. 3.

*Table showing the duration and fall of Rain monthly during the year ending December 31st, 1873.*

MONTH, 1873.	NO. OF DAYS ON WHICH RAIN OCCURRED.	DURATION.			FALL IN	TOTAL FALL IN	SNOW REDUCED TO WATER IN INCHES.	
		DAYS.	HOURS.	MIN.	INCHES.	INCHES.	SNOW.	WATER.
January . . .	8	3	22	59	4.39	4.39	8.	.80
February . . .	9	3	6	32	2.04	6.43	26.	2.60
March . . . . .	6	3	1	53	1.77	8.20		
April . . . . .	11	4	0	45	4.68	12.88		
May . . . . .	6	5	6	15	4.08	16.96		
June . . . . .	5	1	13	32	1.33	18.29		
July . . . . .	9	2	6	22	3.41	21.70		
August . . . . .	11	4	5	9	8.56	30.26		
September . .	9	2	11	19	2.39	32.65		
October . . . .	3	2	6	44	2.02	34.67		
November . .	5	3	1	15	4.89	39.56		
December . . .	9	5	7	..	2.97	42.53		
Total . . . . .	91	40	17	45	42.53		34.	3.40



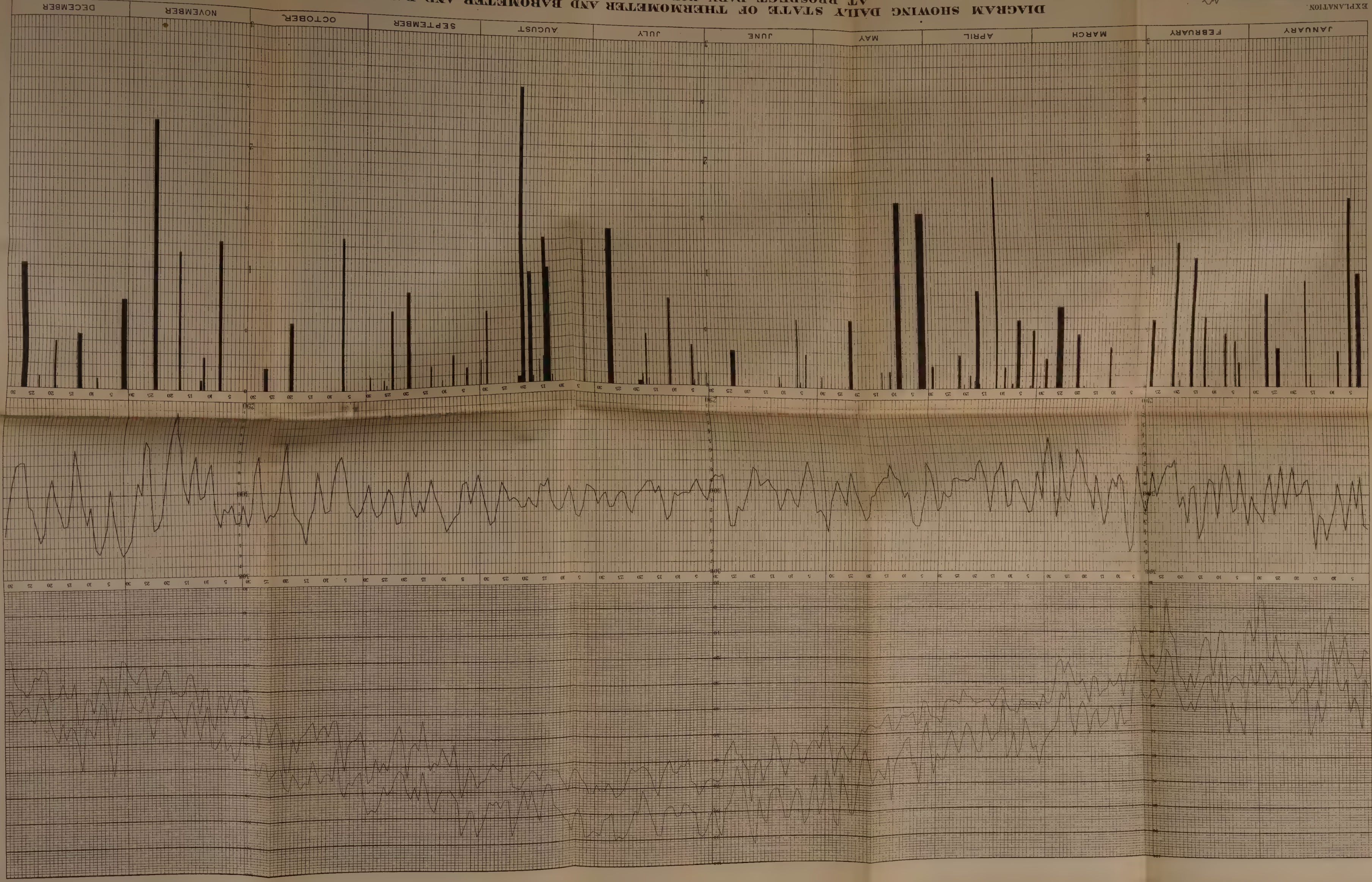


EXPLANATION.  
 Daily maximum and minimum of Thermometer.  
 mean of Barometer, reduced to 32° Fahr and sea level.  
 Rain Fall

DIAGRAM SHOWING DAILY STATE OF THERMOMETER AND BAROMETER  
 AT PROSPECT PARK, FOR THE YEAR 1873.

Accompanying Meteorological Reports.  
 JNO. Y. CULVER, Chief Engineer & Superintendent.

Vertical lines represent days  
 Space on Thermometer scale represents 1 degree.  
 " " Barometer " " 1 inch.  
 " " Rain Fall " " 1 inch.









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